



Charles R.



Ight Trusty and well-beloved, We greet you well. VVhereas Our Royal Father of blessed Memory, did in the year 1632. Constitute and Establish a Society of Fishers, and Declared that He was resolved by all good occasions favourably to assist, and graciously accept the forwardness of all those that should express their zeal to His Majesties Service in so general and publick an undertaking, It being then Resolved and Concluded by His Majesty, that it was very honorable and necessary for this Kingdom. Now that the true managing and most advantageous prosecution thereof, is by experience discovered by Philip late Earl of Pembroke and Mountgomery and his Associates, who did cause sundry Fishing Vessels to be provided and built, which employed many Families in making of Nets and other provisions (one Vessel employing 20 Families in work) besides the breeding of Country Youths to be made serviceable Marriners in short time, as by the Book called The *Royal Hering Buss Fishings* presented unto Us doth plainly appear. And whereas We are informed that the Nation doth abound with great numbers of poor Families and Vagrants, who for want of employment are like to perish, unless some speedy care be taken for their Relief: And that the several Wards and Suburbs

born in the said places, but such as come out of sundry Countries to seek Relief: For Redress whereof, We do hereby recommend unto the care of You Our Lord Mayor of the said City, to advise with each Alderman, and cause his Ward-moote Inquest to give in a particular of all the poor Inhabitants within his Ward what their employment is, and how many are without employment, and present the same to the rest of the Inhabitants in his Ward with a Copy thereof, and excite them to a free subscription for Raising a stock to buy Hemp and Clapboards to make Hering Fishing-nets, and barrells for the furnishing and fitting out of one Busse or Fishing Vessel to belong to the said ward, which will give all the poor and Vagrants employment, The said Ward husbanding the same to their best advantage. The which VVe shall in like manner recommend to all the Counties, Cities and Towns within Our Dominions, whereby to make it a National employment for the general good, and will give all fitting assistance unto the Undertakers for their encouragement. That so when Provisions shall be made ready and Store-houses built in Commodious places about the River of *Thames*, (where breaches have been made) and the like, in the several Ports, Magazines may be fitted with Nets, Caske, Salt and all things in readiness, The Busses may all go forth to Our Island of *Sheetland* as their Rendezvous to keep together in their fishing according to certain orders prescribed in the aforesaid Book. And to take that priviledg of the Fishing grounds which belongs to us before all Nations whatsoever. And so we bid you heartily farewell.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall this 23. day of July, in the Twelfth year of our Reign.

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By His Majesties Command.
E D. N I C H O L A S.

To Our Right Trusty and well-beloved, the Lord Mayor of Our City of LONDON, to be
Communicated to the Court of Aldermen.